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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,177	10/16/2003	Naomi L. Nakao	G30-016	7585
R. Neil Sudol 7590 04/28/2008 714 Colorado Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06605-1601				
EXAMINER KASZTEJNA, MATTHEW JOHN				
ART UNIT 3739		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 04/28/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,177

Applicant(s)

NAKAO, NAOMI L.

Examiner

MATTHEW J. KASZTEJNA

Art Unit

3739

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 10, 12, 13, 15-24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34-37, 40, 41, 43 and 45-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-24, 27, 28, 34-37, 40, 41 and 43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 10, 12, 13, 15-21, 30, 31 and 45-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/30/08 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-646)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 22-24, 27-28, 34-37, 40-41 and 43 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on April 3, 2008.

Applicant's election without traverse of Species A in the reply filed on April 3, 2008 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 10, 12-13, 15-21, 30-31 and 45-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,840,013 to Lee et al.

In regards to claim 1, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus comprising a flexible elongate insertion shaft 1238, the insertion shaft is formed having an outer surface with at least one longitudinally extending channel 1246 having a first transverse dimension or diameter, the channel having a longitudinally extending slot (i.e. upper edge of legs 1243a-b) through the outer surface, the slot having a second transverse dimension or width, the second transverse dimension or width being smaller than the first transverse

dimension or diameter (see Fig. 14), further comprising at least one closure member 1230 removably connected to the insertion shaft to close the slot, the insertion shaft being formed with a pair of opposing edges along the slot, the closure member being removably attached to the insertion shaft at the edges, the closure member being an elongate strip removably attached to the insertion shaft at the edges, the closure member being provided with guide channels 1252 and the shaft being provided with protrusions 1292 insertable into the guides (see Col. 17, Lines 3-22). **In regard to claims 10 and 30-31**, Lee et al. disclose an entrainment element 92 for facilitating manipulation, to slide closure member along the slot (see Col. 10, Lines 44-55).

In regards to claim 3, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus wherein said channel has a distal end opening and proximal end opening, said slot extending from said distal end opening to said proximal end opening, said closure member closing said slot while maintaining said distal end opening and said proximal end opening unobstructed (see Figs. 1 and 12).

In regards to claims 12-13 and 15, Lee et al. disclose a flexible endoscope, further comprising a catheter disposed in the channel (see Fig. 22 and Col. 8, Lines 33-36 and Col. 18, Lines 59-67).

In regards to claim 16, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the catheter is provided at a proximal end with connectors for coupling the catheter to a source of irrigation fluid 308 and a source of suction 310 (see Figs. 11a-j and Col. 15, Lines 20-30).

In regards to claims 17-19, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein at a proximal end the channel terminates at an entry port bifurcated with respect to and diverging from the shaft, further comprising a biopsy channel liner removably disposed in the channel and extending at a proximal end out of the entry port, an end cap being fitted to the liner at the entry port (see Figs. 12, 17-21 and 23 and Col. 19, Lines 18-60).

In regards to claim 20, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the channel extends from a proximal end portion of the insertion shaft to a distal tip thereof (see Fig. 1).

In regards to claim 21, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the channel has a mostly circular cross-section divided by the slot, the channel being defined by a surface of the insertion member having a C-shaped cross-section (see Col. 8, Lines 24-28).

In regards to claims 45-46, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the insertion shaft has a first outer surface and the closure member has a second outer surface, the second outer surface being smoothly continuous with the first outer surface (see Fig. 14).

In regards to claims 47-48, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the closure member is attached to the insertion shaft only along the edges of the slot (see Fig. 14).

In regards to claims 49, Lee et al. disclose an apparatus, wherein the closure member is separate from and independent from the catheter (see Fig. 22 Col. 18, Lines 59-67).

Claims 1, 3, 10, 12-13, 15, 30-31 and 45-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,603 to Fontana.

In regards to claims 1, 15, Fontana discloses an apparatus comprising a flexible elongate insertion shaft 2, the insertion shaft is formed having an outer surface with at least one longitudinally extending channel 1b having a first transverse dimension or diameter, the channel having a longitudinally extending slot 11 through the outer surface, the slot having a second transverse dimension or width, the second transverse dimension or width being smaller than the first transverse dimension or diameter (see Figs 4-6), further comprising at least one closure member 6 removably connected to the insertion shaft to close the slot, the insertion shaft being formed with a pair of opposing edges along the slot, the closure member being removably attached to the insertion shaft at the edges, the closure member being an elongate strip removably attached to the insertion shaft at the edges, at least one of the closure member and the shaft being provided with grooves and the other being insertable within the groove (see Col. 3, Lines 1-50). **In regard to claims 10 and 30-31,** Fontana discloses an entrainment element 5 for facilitating manipulation, to slide closure member along the slot (see Fig. 4).

In regards to claim 3, Fontana discloses an apparatus wherein said channel has a distal end opening and proximal end opening, said slot extending from said distal end opening to said proximal end opening, said closure member closing said slot while maintaining said distal end opening and said proximal end opening unobstructed (see Figs. 4-6).

In regards to claims 12-13, 15 and 49, Fontana discloses a flexible endoscope, fully capable of comprising a catheter disposed in the channel (see Col. 3, Lines 13-15).

In regards to claims 45-46, Fontana discloses an apparatus, wherein the insertion shaft has a first outer surface and the closure member has a second outer surface, the second outer surface being smoothly continuous with the first outer surface (see Fig. 6).

In regards to claims 47-48, Fontana discloses an apparatus, wherein the closure member is attached to the insertion shaft only along the edges of the slot (see Fig. 6).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 10, 12-13, 15-21, 30-31 and 45-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW J. KASZTEJNA whose telephone number is (571)272-6086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. J. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3739

/Linda C Dvorak/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3739

4/22/8